## IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS SHERMAN DIVISION

In re:	§ Chapter 7  §
S&A RESTAURANT CORP., et al., 1	
Debtors.	§ (Jointly Administered)
MICHELLE CHOW, CHAPTER 7	Adversary Case No
TRUSTEE,	§
	§
Plaintiff,	§
VS.	§
	§
DHL EXPRESS (USA), INC.	§
	§
Defendant.	§

#### **COMPLAINT**

Michelle Chow, Chapter 7 Trustee for the bankruptcy estate of S&A Restaurant Corp., and related debtors (the "Trustee"), files this Complaint against DHL EXPRESS (USA), INC., and pursuant to Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 7001, and 11 U.S.C. §§ 547 and 550, states as follows:

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The Debtors jointly administered in the above-styled and numbered case are: S & A Restaurant Corp.; S & A Properties Corp.; Jolly Ox Club of Kansas, Inc.; S & A Payroll Agent II, Inc.; S and A Leasing Corp.; Steak and Ale of Texas, Inc.; Bennigan's of Waldorf, Inc.; Bennigan's Gift Card, Inc.; Steak and Ale of Alabama, Inc.; Steak and Ale of Virginia, Inc.; Bennigan's of Las Vegas, Inc.; Steak and Ale of Colorado, Inc.; Bennigan's of Security, Inc.; Steak and Ale of West Virginia, Inc.; Steak and Ale of Columbia, Inc.; Bennigan's of Laurel, Inc.; Steak and Ale of Florida, Inc.; Steak and Ale of Oklahoma City No. 1, Inc.; Bennigan's of Roosevelt Field, Inc.; Steak and Ale of Georgia, Inc.; Steak and Ale of Delaware, Inc.; Steak and Ale of Illinois, Inc.; Steak and Ale of Pennsylvania, Inc.; Steak and Ale of Delaware, Inc.; Steak and Ale of Indiana, Inc.; Steak and Ale of Massachusetts, Inc.; Steak and Ale of New Mexico, Inc.; Steak and Ale of Michigan, Inc.; Steak and Ale of Missouri, Inc.; Steak and Ale of New Jersey, Inc.; Steak and Ale of Little Rock, Inc.; Steak and Ale of Ohio, Inc.; 100 W. Timonium Road, Inc.; Bennigan's Club of Dallas-Shiloh, Inc.; Bennigan's Club of Fort Worth, Inc.; Bennigan's Club of Mesquite, Inc.; Bennigan's Club of Tyler, Inc.; Steak and Ale Club of Mesquite, Inc.; and Jamie's Inc.

#### **JURISDICTION**

- 1. This Complaint seeks to avoid and recover from Defendant, or from any other person or entity for whose benefit the transfers were made, all preferential transfers of property made for or on account of an antecedent debt and to or for the benefit of Defendant by S&A RESTAURANT CORP., et al., (the "Debtors") during the ninety-day period prior to the filing of the Debtors' bankruptcy petitions pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 547 and 550. Subject to proof, the Complaint also seeks to recover pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 549 any transfers on account of prepetition debt that cleared post-petition and pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 548 any transfers that may have been a fraudulent conveyance. To the extent that Defendant has filed a proof of claim or has a claim listed on the Debtors' schedules as undisputed, liquidated, and not contingent, or has otherwise requested payment from the Debtors or the Debtors' chapter 11 estates, (collectively, the "Claims"), this Complaint is not intended to be, nor should it be construed as, a waiver of Plaintiff's right to object to such Claims for any reason including, but not limited to, 11 U.S.C. § 502 (a) through (j) ("Section 502"), and such rights are expressly reserved. Notwithstanding this reservation of rights, certain relief pursuant to Section 502 may be sought by Plaintiff herein as further stated below.
- 2. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this adversary proceeding, which arises under Title 11, arises in, and relates to cases under Title 11, in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Texas, and jointly administered under Case No. 08-41898, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334(b).
- 3. The claims and causes of action set forth herein concern the determination, allowance, disallowance, and amount of claims under 11 U.S.C. §§ 502, 547, 548, 549 and 550.

- 4. This adversary proceeding is a "core" proceeding to be heard and determined by the Bankruptcy Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2).
  - 5. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1409.
- 6. This Court has jurisdiction over this adversary proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1334 and Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7001.

### **PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

- 7. On July 29, 2008 (the "Petition Date"), the Debtors commenced the above-styled and jointly administered case number under chapter 7 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code") in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Texas (the "Court").
- 8. On July 30, 2008, Michelle Chow was appointed as Chapter 7 Trustee of the Debtors' estates.

#### **PARTIES**

9. Plaintiff is informed and believes and on that basis alleges that Defendant is a corporation organized under the laws of Ohio.

# CLAIMS FOR RELIEF COUNT 1 (AVOIDANCE OF PREFERENCE TRANSFERS - 11 U.S.C. § 547)

- 10. Plaintiff incorporates all preceding paragraphs as if fully re-alleged herein.
- 11. On or within 90 days before the Petition Date, that is between April 30, 2009 and July 29, 2009 (the "Preference Period"), the Debtors continued to operate their business affairs, including the transfer of property, either by checks, cashier checks, wire transfers or otherwise to certain entities, including Defendant.

12. Plaintiff has completed an analysis of all readily available information of the

Debtors and is seeking to avoid all the transfers of an interest of the Debtors' property made by

one or more of the Debtors to Defendant within the Preference Period.

13. Plaintiff has determined that one or more of the Debtors made transfers to

Defendant during the Preference Period in an amount not less than \$57,620.48 (the "Transfers").

Attached hereto as "Exhibit A" and incorporated herein by this reference is a list of Transfers

presently known to Plaintiff.

14. During the course of this proceeding, Plaintiff may learn (through discovery or

otherwise) of additional transfers made to Defendant during the Preference Period. It is Plaintiff's

intention to avoid and recover all transfers made by one or more of the Debtors of an interest of

the Debtors in property and to or for the benefit of Defendant or any other transferee. Plaintiff

reserves its right to amend this original Complaint as to include: (i) further information regarding

the Transfers, (ii) additional Transfers, (iii) modifications of and/or revision to Defendant's

name, (iv) additional defendants, and/or (v) additional causes of action (i.e., but not exclusively,

11 U.S.C. §542, §544, §545, §548 and §549) (collectively, the "Amendments"), that may

become known to Plaintiff at any time during this adversary proceeding, through formal

discovery or otherwise, and for the Amendments to relate back to this original Complaint.

15. Defendant was a creditor of the one or more of the Debtors at the time of the

Transfers within the meaning of 11 U.S.C. § 101(10)(A). At the time of the Transfers, Defendant

had a right to payment on account of an obligation owed to Defendant by one or more of the

Debtors.

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- 16. The Transfers were to or for the benefit of a creditor within the meaning of 11 U.S.C. §547(b)(1) because the Transfers either reduced or fully satisfied a debt then owed by one or more of the Debtors to Defendant.
- 17. The Transfers were for, or on account of, antecedent debts owed by one or more of the Debtors before the Transfers were made.
- 18. The Debtors were insolvent at all times during the 90 days prior to the Petition Date.
- 19. As a result of the Transfers, Defendant received more than it would have received if: (i) the Debtors' cases were under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code; (ii) the Transfers had not been made; and (iii) Defendant received payment of its debts under the provisions of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 20. In accordance with the foregoing, the Transfers are avoidable pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 547(b).

# COUNT II (TO AVOID FRAUDULENT CONVEYANCES PURSUANT TO 11 U.S.C. § 548(A)(1)(B))

- 21. Plaintiff hereby incorporates all preceding paragraphs as if fully re-alleged herein.
- 22. To the extent that one or more of the Transfers were not on account of an antecedent debt or a prepayment for goods subsequently received, one or more of the Debtors did not receive reasonably equivalent value in exchange for such transfer(s) (the "Potentially Fraudulent Transfers"); and
  - A. One or more of the Debtors were insolvent on the date that the Transfer(s) was made or became insolvent as a result of the Transfer(s); or
  - B. One or more of the Debtors were engaged in business or a transaction, or was about to engage in business or a transaction, for which any property remaining with one or more of the Debtors was an unreasonably small capital; or

- C. One or more of the Debtors intended to incur, or believed that one or more of the Debtors would incur, debts that would be beyond one or more of the Debtors' ability to pay as such debts matured.
- 23. The Potentially Fraudulent Transfers are avoidable pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 548(a)(1)(B).

# COUNT III (TO RECOVER POST PETITION TRANSFERS PURSUANT TO 11 U.S.C. § 549)

- 24. Plaintiff incorporates all preceding paragraphs as if fully re-alleged herein.
- 25. To the extent that the Debtors made a transfer to Defendant on account of obligations that arose before the Petition Date and that cleared after the Petition Date, such transfer(s) were unauthorized post-petition transfers (the "Post Petition Transfers") and are avoidable under 11 U.S.C. § 549.

### COUNT IV (RECOVERY OF AVOIDED TRANSFERS - 11 U.S.C. § 550)

- 26. Plaintiff incorporates all preceding paragraphs as if fully re-alleged herein.
- 27. Plaintiff is entitled to avoid the Transfers pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 547(b), any Potentially Fraudulent Transfers pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 548, and any Post Petition Transfers under 11 U.S.C. § 549. The Transfers, any Potentially Fraudulent Transfers and any Post Petition Transfers are collectively referred to herein as "All Avoided Transfers."
- 28. Defendant was the initial transferee of the All Avoided Transfers or the immediate or mediate transferee of such initial transferee or the person for whose benefit All Avoided Transfers were made.
- 29. Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 550(a), Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendant All Avoided Transfers, plus interest thereon to the date of payment and the costs of this action.

## COUNT V (DISALLOWANCE OF ALL CLAIMS - 11 U.S.C. § 502(D) AND (J))

- 30. Plaintiff incorporates all preceding paragraphs as if fully re-alleged herein.
- 31. Defendant is an entity from which property is recoverable under 11 U.S.C. § 550.
- 32. Defendant is a transferee of All Avoided Transfers avoidable under 11 U.S.C. § 547, 548 and/or 549.
- 33. Defendant has not paid the amount of the All Avoided Transfers, or turned over such property, for which Defendant is liable under 11 U.S.C. § 550.
- 34. Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 502(d), any and all Claims of Defendant and/or its assignee, against the Debtors' chapter 11 estates or Plaintiff must be disallowed until such time as Defendant pays to Plaintiff an amount equal to the aggregate amount of All Avoided Transfers, plus interest thereon and costs.
- 35. Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 502(j), any and all Claims of Defendant, and/or its assignee, against the Debtors' chapter 11 estates or Plaintiff previously allowed by the Debtors or the Plaintiff, must be reconsidered and disallowed until such time as Defendant pays to Plaintiff an amount equal to the aggregate amount of all the All Avoided Transfers.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff requests that this Court grant it the following relief against Defendant:

As to Counts I through V, that the Court enter a judgment against Defendant:

- A. That All Avoided Transfers avoidable under 11 U.S.C. §§ 547, 548 and/or 549 in the amount of \$57,620.48 be avoided;
- B. That All Avoided Transfers, to the extent that they are avoided pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 547, 548 and/or 549, be recovered by Plaintiff pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 550;

- C. Disallowing, in accordance with 11 U.S.C. § 502 (d), any Claims held by Defendant and/or its assignee until Defendant satisfies the judgment;
- D. Disallowing, in accordance with 11 U.S.C. § 502 (j), any Claims held by Defendant and/or its assignee until Defendant satisfies the judgment;
- E. Awarding pre-judgment interest at the maximum legal rate running from the date of each Transfer to the date of judgment herein;
- F. Awarding post judgment interest at the maximum legal rate running from the date of judgment herein until the date the judgment is paid in full, plus costs;
- G. Requiring Defendant to pay forthwith the judgment amount awarded in favor of Plaintiff;
- H. Granting Plaintiff such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

  Respectfully submitted,

#### KANE RUSSELL COLEMAN & LOGAN PC

By: /s/ John J. Kane

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ATTORNEYS FOR MICHELLE CHOW, CHAPTER 7 TRUSTEE

# **EXHIBIT A**

# S & A RESTAURANT CORP.

Payment Summary

# DHL EXPRESS (USA), INC

Payment			
Date	Number	Amount	Clear Date
4/10/2008	770746-4208	\$8,112.87	6/19/2008
4/18/2008	771894-4208	\$7,766.43	6/19/200
4/22/2008	772832-4208	\$1,145.25	6/19/200
4/23/2008	772984-4208	\$32.56	6/19/200
4/24/2008	773106-4208	\$34.40	6/19/200
4/25/2008	773193-4208	\$8,811.73	6/19/200
4/29/2008	773727-4208	\$494.75	6/23/200
4/30/2008	773953-4208	\$89.05	6/23/200
5/1/2008	774068-4208	\$8,531.03	6/23/200
5/5/2008	774499-4208	\$682.06	6/23/200
5/7/2008	774989-4208	\$6,775.07	6/23/200
5/9/2008	775156-4208	\$445.96	6/23/200
5/12/2008	775419-4208	\$47.96	7/7/200
5/15/2008	776148-4208	\$41.78	7/7/200
5/16/2008	776265-4208	\$6,872.21	7/7/200
5/19/2008	776629-4208	\$974.93	7/7/200
5/20/2008	777026-4208	\$52.22	7/7/200
5/26/2008	777721-4208	\$6,710.22	7/7/200
	Total	\$57,620.48	<del>-</del> 1